THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

General Pope is beginning to distinguish himself for vigorous despatches. He reports to the War Department that a cavalry expedition—force not stated—under General King, met and defeated one hundred Confederate cavalry, near Mount Carmel Church, on the road from Fredericksburg to Richmond, burnt their camp and destroyed six car loads of stores. The same expedition subsequently encountered a body of Steuart's cavalry, and drove the latter and the former across the North Ann river, pursuing both bodies until within sight of Hanover Junction. Several prisoners, a large number of horses, and many arms were brought back, and all this work was accomplished without the loss of a man. Strange to say, General Pope has not learned the name of the commanding officer and troops who have thus distinguished themselves. The whole despatch is, nevertheless, a triumphant one; but it deals rather too largely in what Rufus Choate would have called "glittering generalities."

At Fredericksburg, General Pope has caused four of the most influential citizens—Messrs. Knox, Barton, Gill and Dillford—to be arrested and held as hostages for the release of certain Union men carried off by the Confederates last spring. The parties so seized were taken from their beds late at night and sent on to Washington.

Another "Order" has been issued by Gener l Pope—"No. 11"—directing the several officers of his command to immediately arrest all disloyal male citizens within their reach, and compel them to take the oath of allegiance and also to give sufficient security for its observance, under penalty of being sent South beyond the extreme pickets of the army, and of being regarded as spies and shot if they venture to return to their homes. According to the correspondent of the *Tribune*, it is believed by some persons at Washington that the principal effect of such an order as the above will be to reenforce the Confederate army.

All the militia of Missouri have been called upon by General Schofield to organize for service, "for the purpose of exterminating the guerillas" who infest that State. The order summons "every able-bodied man capable of bearing arms" to repair to the nearest military post and report for duty. Every man is to bring with him such arms as he can procure, and the militia thus organized will be governed by the Articles of War and Army Regulations, and will be subject to the orders of officers of the United States, or of the Missouri militia. An order has also been issued by the Provost Marshal at St. Louis, forbidding the sale or transfer by dealers or individuals, of arms or ammunition of any character under penalty of arrest and the imprisonment of the offender during the war.

The special correspondent of the Chicago *Times* furnishes that journal with full details of the recent battle on the Mississippi, between the Confederate steam ram Arkansas and the whole of the Federal flotilla off Vicksburg. The narrative thus given is spiritedly written, and although it differs in many essential particulars from that of the Associated Press, seems to be a fair and—as far as it is possible—an impartial statement. According to this account, the damage done to the Federal fleet was much more severe than it was originally stated to have been. In the contest at the mouth of the Yazoo river the Carondelet lost seven men killed and a number wounded, and had her armor pierced in half a dozen places; whilst in the general engagement which took place subsequently, the Arkansas "put holes through the Hartford, the Iroquois, the Benton, and half of the gunboats," and drove a shot through the blow-off pipe of the ram Lancaster, which caused an explosion of steam; killed three men and wounded ten or fifteen. The Tyler also was badly riddled, and several of her men were killed. In the unsuccessful attempt that was made, during the ensuing night, to sink the Arkansas, by pouring upon her the fire of the entire flotilla, the writer states that "the broadsides from our own vessels did as much damage to themselves as the guns of the Arkansas. The Dickey got three shots, the Lancaster several, and other transports were nearly riddled. The Arkansas appears to have received several shots in her hull and elsewhere, as carpenters were seen at work upon her the following morning, and her steam pumps were kept going; but we are told that it did not appear that she was in any danger of sinking."

A telegram from Washington states, on information derived from the Navy Department, that the reason why Vicksburg has not been taken is because the navy is unable to take it. It will require, we are told, a co-operating land force, which, owing to circumstances, is not at present available.

From the Washington Republican of yesterday.

OFFICIAL.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA, Washington, July 23, 1862.

General Orders, No. 11.

Commanders of army corps, divisions, brigades and detached commands will proceed immediately to arrest a l disloyal male citizens within their lines, or within their reach, in rear of their respective stations.

Such as are willing to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, and will furnish sufficient security for its observance, shall be permitted to remain at their homes, and pursue in good faith their accustomed avocation. Those who refuse shall be conducted South beyond the extreme picket of the army, and there released; but if found again anywhere within our lines, or at any point in rear, they will be considered spies, and subjected to the extreme rigor of military law.

If any person having taken the oath of allegiance as above specified, be found to have violated it, he shall be shot, and his property seized, and applied to the public use.

All communication with any persons whatever living within the lines of the enemy is positively prohibited, except through the military authorities, and in the manner specified by military law; and any person concerned in writing, or in carrying letters, or messages to any other way, will be considered and treated as a spy within the lines of the United States army.

By command of Major-General Pope:

GEO. D. RUGGLES,
Colonel, A. A. G., and Chief of Staff.

NEWS FROM GEN. POPE'S ARMY.

SEIZURE OF CITIZENS OF FREDERICKSBURG AS HOSTAGES FOR CAPTURED UNION MEN—SKIRMISH WITH THE ENEMY.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The following despatch is received from the *Herald's* correspondent at Fredericksburg:

FREDERICKSBURG, July 23.—Pursuant to an order of General Pope, Captain Chandler, of Gen. King's staff, arrested last night four of the most influential citizens of Fredericksburg—Messrs. Knox, Barton, Gill and Dillford—to be held as hostages for the release of certain Union men carried off by the Confederates last spring. The parties were taken from their beds late at night and sent to Washington this morning, in charge of General King's aide-de-camp, Capt. Bankard.

There are now a large number of individuals visiting their families here on furloughs from the Confederate army, and plans are being arranged for their capture to-night.

Day before yesterday the 34 Indiana cavalry met with the enemy several miles from here, on the Richmond telegraph road, leaving one killed and six prisoners. Two companies of the Brooklyn 14th and a squadron of the Harris Light Cavalry are in pursuit of the enemy.

From the New York Tribune.

WHAT IT COSTS.

Putting down the slaveholders' rebellion is a very expensive as well as bloody business. Congress, at its recent session, passed bills which, in the aggregate, appropriated out of the Treasury the sum of $913,078,527 63. At the extra session last summer, Congress appropriated $265,103,296.-99. The total amount therefore, for the two sessions reaches the enormous sum of $1,178,181,824.62. Nearly all of this vast outlay was rendered necessary by the rebellion. At the recent session, the army bill alone appropriated within a fraction of $559,000,000—an amount larger, no doubt, than was ever before embraced in one law or decree of any Government on earth. Look at the aggregate of the two sessions—eleven hundred and seventy-eight millions one hundred and eighty-one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four dollars and sixty-two cents—and tell us if the work of crushing out this "irregular opposition" to the National Government, which "our misguided Southern brethren" have organized, will not only make them expensive relatives to their cotemporaries, but cause their memories to be very *dear* to posterity?

AMERICAN BANKERS IN LONDON.—Mr. Bates (of the firm of Baring Brothers) and Mr. Peabody, the American bankers in London, are Americans by birth, but seem to have become aliens and enemies of this country by education. They have both accumulated large fortunes from their dealings with this country, and now, in the time of our trial, they denounce our government, applaud the Confederates, discredit our stocks, send them here for sale, and attempt to drain our market of specie. Mr. Thurlow Weed asserts that Mr. Perbody is a loyal man; but Mr. Weed was fresh from Peabody's dinner-table when he made that assertion, and facts are very much stronger than even Mr. Weed's word. Loyal Americans in Europe will do well to take a note of the course of Messrs. Bates and Peabody, and act accordingly.—*New York Herald.*

Galignani's Messenger, of Paris, of the 15 h July, says:—"A letter from Jerusalem states that a young American gentleman, named Carter, a divinity student, was lately drowned in the Jordan. A friend who had accompanied him from the United States was a witness of the disaster, but could not afford assistance. The young man, when bathing, was carried away by the rapid current, and, after sinking two or three times, disappeared."

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CAVALRY EXPEDITION SENT OUT BY GEN. POPE. Two Bodies of Rebel Cavalry Defeated—The Camp of One and Six Car Loads of Corn Destroyed—Horses and Arms Captured.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA, July 24.

To Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

A cavalry expedition which was sent out by Gen. King on the 22d, from Fredericksburg, returned last evening. Early yesterday morning they met and defeated a body of Confederate cavalry, about 100 strong, stationed near Carmel Church, on the telegraph road from Fredericksburg to Richmond, burnt their camp and six cars loaded with corn, and broke up the telegraph to Gordonsville. An hour later, a large body of Steuart's cavalry came up to attack them, and these too were defeated and driven across the North Ann river and pursued till within sight of Hanover Junction. Several prisoners, a large number of horses and many arms, were brought back. A march of seventy miles, and the encounter and defeat of two bodies of Confederate cavalry, were accomplished in 29 hours, and without the loss of a man. I have not yet received the name of the commanding officer and troops who have thus distinguished themselves, but will transmit them to you as soon as particulars are received. The damage done to the Virginia Central road by the expedition of the 19th is not yet repaired.

[Signed] JOHN POPE,
Major General Commanding.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, July 23.—A severely wounded Federal officer, who was in the Hospital at Savage Station at the time of the evacuation of that place, learning that the sick and wounded must be left behind, concluded that he would not be one of the number to fall into the hands of the Rebels, and at once started off in the direction of James river, as nearly as he could judge, and after wandering about for several days, and travelling as fast as possible in his exhausted condition, succeeded in reaching the banks of the river, and on the seventh day got on board of a transport, when he was kindly cared for.

While performing this tedious journey, except ambulances drove past him with no other occupant than a frightened driver, who would not heed the cries of the wounded man for help or stop to take him on board, but drove on at a furious rate, and soon disappeared in the distance, making good their escape with an empty ambulance.

Several of the wounded soldiers who succeeded in making their escape in this manner, and with whom I have had occasion to converse, have given me a similar account of the conduct of these ambulance drivers, and feel very sensibly and keenly the indignity manifested towards them by those frightened Jehuns.

The Hygeia Hospital at Fortress Monroe was closed to-day, and the patients have all been removed to Mill Creek and Chesapeake Hospitals.

A flag of truce left Fortress Monroe this morning at 10 o'clock, with a number of Rebel prisoners for Richmond.

General Dix returned this morning from a flag-of-truce mission up the James river. The object of his visit was to arrange for the exchange of prisoners, but the result of his mission I have not yet ascertained, as it is not yet made public. It is to be supposed that he was successful, as immediately on his arrival at Fortress Monroe the arrangements were made, and in three hours a flag of truce was dispatched up the James river, with Rebel prisoners on board. The steamer Canonicus conveyed them up the river.

The mail boat John A. Warner, from Harrison's Landing, arrived here at half past four and reports all quiet and no news from the army on the James river.

The steamers Knickerbocker and Spaulding are on the way down the river, with six hundred additional sick and wounded prisoners from Richmond. One goes to New York and the other to Baltimore.

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

Stringent Measures Against Guerillas.

ST LOUIS, July 22.—General Schofield has issued a General Order for the immediate organization of all the militia of Missouri, for the purpose of exterminating the guerillas that infest the State. Every able bodied man, capable of bearing arms, and subject to military duty, is ordered to repair without delay to the nearest military post and report for duty to the commissioned officer. Every man is to bring whatever arms he can procure, and those who have no arms will be supplied by the Ordnance Department as quickly as possible. All arms and ammunition of whatever kinds, not in the hands of the loyal militia, will be taken possession of and used for the public defence. Six days after the date of the order are allowed for every man fit for duty to report to the commanding officer of the nearest military post and be enrolled.—All persons so enrolled will be regarded as belonging to the active militia of the State.

Until further orders the commanding officer of the post is authorized to give furloughs to such men of this militia force as cannot be absent from their ordinary business without serious detriment, or such as are needed for the present service.—Such leaves of absence will in no case be for a longer period than ten days, and may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the officer granting them. The militia thus organized will be governed by the Articles of War and Army Regulations, and will be subject to the orders of officers of the United States or Missouri militia, regularly mustered in the service, as may be assigned to their command.

ST. LOUIS, July 22.—Governor Gamble has issued the following special order:

HEADQUARTERS STATE OF MISSOURI, Adjutant General's Office, St. Louis, July 22d, 1862.—The existence of numerous bands of guerillas in different parts of the State, who are engaged in robbing and murdering peaceable citizens, for no other cause than that such citizens are loyal to the Government under which they have always lived, renders it necessary that the most stringent means should be adopted to punish all such crimes and destroy such bands.

Brigadier General Schofield, in command of the Missouri State Militia, is hereby authorized to organize the entire militia of the State into companies, regiments and brigades, and to order into active service such portions of the force thus organized as he may judge necessary, for the purpose of putting down all marauders and defending the peaceable citizens of the State.

ST. LOUIS, July 23.—The Provost Marshal General has issued an order forbidding the sale or transfer by dealers or individuals of arms or ammunition of any character, under penalty of arrest and the imprisonment of the offender during the war. All dealers, whether agents or owners, in this division, are required immediately to make an inventory of all arms and ammunition on hand, stating the quantity, class and value of such inventory, to be filed at the office of the Provost Marshal within three days, accompanied by affidavits that it is a full and correct statement, that the values affixed are the fair and usual charges for the same. Should it become necessary to take possession of the said arms and ammunition for the use of the militia called into service to exterminate the guerilla bands, possession will be taken thereof and the proper receipts given.

The removal or transfer of arms and ammunition from one point to another of this division, except by the loyal militia, is forbidden. Any person guilty of their removal will be arrested and held as an enemy to the State, and guilty of aiding its enemies.

The persons and property of all citizens are subordinate to the common weal, and it is expected that loyal citizens will render implicit obedience and report to the nearest local Provost Marshal or military commandant any violation of this order.

The Delay in the Taking of Vicksburg.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Among other weeks concerning Captain Farragut, there is one in the correspondence of a New York paper, dated off Vicksburg, that "the cause of the almost criminal delay in taking Vicksburg is altogether attributable to the Navy Department, the Secretary of which gave such instructions to Captain Farragut that he is compelled to remain silent and inactive before the devoted city." Now the fact is, as ascertained on inquiry, the Secretary of the Navy gave no such instructions whatever of this character.

In the language of a distinguished officer, "our vessels could not climb the hills;" and the condition of the army in the West has been such, that a co-operating land force was not available. The place could not be held by the few troops with the navy if the batteries were silenced, as Van Dorn, with a large Rebel force, is lying back of the city. The navy, it may be stated, is a co-operator with the land forces in the capture of cities, protected as Vicksburg is by land and water defences. Our naval vessels have not, however, been idle before Vicksburg, but success has been delayed owing to the reason stated.

From the Indian Territory.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has received cheering advices from the Indian territory. The two thousand white troops, who have accompanied from Kansas an equal number of Indian refugees, have already made a good impression in the Cherokee country, and with the additions of 1,500 Indians under John Ross, further important results are anticipated. Large numbers of Indians have asked to be furnished with arms to operate against the Secessionists in the various tribes.

It has just been ascertained that the Rebel Government professes to have made treaties with the Reserve Texas Indians, Camanches, Senecas, Shawnees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Seminoles, and Cherokees, and appropriated money to carry them into effect. Our Government has merely a treaty of friendship with the Camanches. As the Senecas and Shawnees are known to be loyal to the United States, it is supposed a silent treaty has been made by a few only of their chiefs with the Rebel Government.

Army Discipline.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—An order was to-day issued from the office of Provost Marshal, to the effect that all convalescent soldiers found in barrooms, gambling houses and other places of like immoral character, will be considered it for service and made to rejoin their regiments.

Guerillas Dispersed in Missouri.

PILOT KNOB, MO., July 24.—It is reported that a detachment of four companies, under Major Lippert intercepted the guerillas that made a raid upon Granville recently, completely dispersing them, taking sixteen prisoners and recovering all the booty taken at Granville.

FROM EUROPE.

ADDITIONAL BY THE STEAMER ASIA.

THE KINGDOM OF ITALY.

BOSTON, July 24.—The steamer Asia, from Liverpool via Queenstown, has arrived here. The chief points in her advices were telegraphed from Cape Race.

The official journal of Dresden, of the 12th, publishes a letter from Vienna, asserting, on reliable authority, that the Cabinet at Turin has, as the condition of the recognition of the Kingdom of Italy by Russia and Prussia, renounced any further enterprise aiming at taking possession of Rome and Venetia.

The same letter says that England and France have guaranteed the *statu quo* of actual possession to the Cabinet of Turin, in opposition to the revolutionary party, should it attempt any insurrection.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER NORTH STAR.

The Revolution in New Grenada—Arrival of French Ships of War at Acapulco.

NEW YORK, July 24.—The steamer North Star has arrived from Aspinwall, bringing $878,000 in treasure.

The advices from New Grenada are not important.

The war is drawing to a close by the continued successes of Mosquera. He has issued a decree, making emigrants immediately naturalized citizens, with the exception that they are not to be called on to do military service for twenty years, unless in case of foreign invasion, and are exempt from tax action except in their municipal districts. General Arboleda had been defeated and captured with 1,700 men by Mosquera's Generals. Six hundred men would probably be sent to Panama to reinforce Mosquera's forces, in consequence of the Governor calling the citizens of the State to arms to recover possession.

A number of refugees, driven away by Mosquera, have arrived in the North Star.

Two French men-of-war had arrived at Acapulco, and a flody of Mexicans under a Garibaldian officer had erected a battery to attempt to sink them.

Efforts for Raising Troops in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, July 24.—A meeting of prominent citizens was held to day at the Board of Trade Rooms, to aid in raising the quota of troops for Pennsylvania, Mayor Henry presiding. Forty-five thousand dollars were subscribed towards raising ten regiments in this city. Thirty-six parties subscribing, several subscribing two and three thousand dollars each, and none less than a thousand.

A grand war meeting with the same objects will be held in Independence Square on Saturday afternoon. The City Councils will act this afternoon on the proposed bounty appropriation.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

PHILADELPHIA, July 24—P. M.—The City Councils to-day appropriated $500,000 for the payment of a bounty of $50 to each volunteer to supply the quota for this city, under the recent call. A loan to that amount will be negotiated next week.

Nine and Twelve Months' Volunteers.

HARRISBURG, July 24.—The following dispatch sets at rest the unfounded report that the Governor was unauthorized in calling for nine and twelve months' volunteers. A late law of Congress recognizes such enlistments, and twenty-one regiments, the quota assigned to Pennsylvania, will be received and mustered into service for that time.

WASHINGTON, July 24.

Captain R. J. Dodge, Mustering Officer, Harrisburg:

If offered by this Governor, muster nine and twelve months' volunteers.

By order of the Secretary of War.

[Signed] L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

Hospital at Point Lookout.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Point Lookout, at the junction of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, known as a remarkably healthy location, about eighty-five miles from Washington, has been selected for hospital purposes, and where, it is said, four or five thousand patients will be accommodated. Mails are to be supplied six times a week.

Appointment by the Bureau of Construction.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Isaac Rogers, of Ohio, has been appointed Engineer in Charge of the Bureau of Construction and Supervising Architect. Acting Assistant Paymaster George R. Martin has been ordered to the United States steamer Adirondack.

Explosion of a Powder Mill.

SPRINGFIELD, July 24.—Five buildings at Hazardville, used for manufacturing powder, exploded yesterday afternoon, killing seven workmen and teamsters.

Bounty for Volunteers.

PHILADELPHIA, July 24.—The Pennsylvania Railroad Company contributed $50,000 to provide for the payment of bounty to volunteers.

Death of Ex-President Van Buren.

NEW YORK, July 24.—Martin Van Buren, ex-President of the United States, died at Kinderhook this morning, in the 79th year of his age.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, July 24.—Cotton is dull and prices irregular—sales of 200 bales at 36@38 cts. Flour is depressed—sales of 12,500 bbls., at a decline of 10 to 20 cts.: State $5 @5.15; Ohio $5.40@5.55; southern $5.25@5.85. Wheat has declined 1 c.; sales of 193,000 bushels; Chicago spring $1.12@1.19; red Western $1 28@1.33; white $1.35 @1.38. Corn is unchanged—sales of 122,000 bushels mixed at 52@57 cts. Pork is heavy—Mess $10.75@ 10.87½; Prime $8.25@8.62½. Beef is dull. Coffee closed buoyant—sales at 21½@22 cts. Molasses is firm at 35@43 cts. Spirits Turpentine closed firm at $1.80. Rosin firm. Freights dull.

FROM THE SOUTH.

Confederate Shouts of Execration Against General Butler.

A copy of the Mobile *Advertiser* of the 11th instant is received. It says that among the population of that portion of the State of Louisiana lying above and west of New Orleans there is a numerous class of persons of mixed descent, ignorant and scarcely speaking or understanding the English language. These, it may well be supposed, have little feeling in common with those who are fighting in this war. They do not understand the quarrel, etc. They would as soon have Northern gold as Confederate paper, if not a little rather, no matter for what kind of disloyal service it might be the wages.

"The loss of New Orleans was at first regarded as a terrible blow to the Confederate cause, but it has proved fruitful of the greatest advantages, moral and material. Its first effect has been to arouse the Southern cities. The word has gone forth, 'No more surrenders of seaport towns except in ashes.' Butler's rule has intensified Southern hatred of Yankee rule.

"We mean to fight for our independence with such means as God and nature have put into our hands, just as if intervention was not out of the question of hope."

The Augusta *Constitutionalist* says: "Our Government has now in its hands several hundred Yankee officers, some of them of high military rank and high social position. This is a fine opportunity to demand atonement for the atrocities perpetrated by the miscreant Butler at New Orleans. Now is the time to demand retribution for the blood of the murdered Mumford.'

"His death cries to Heaven for vengeance. Let twenty or thirty of the Federal prisoners highest in rank be set aside, and held in close confinement there to a man until 'Butler' is delivered up, or until, by the chances of war, he is thrown into our hands."

Farragut and Van Dorn.

MOBILE, July 15.—The *Appeal* says Commodore Farragut asked General Van Dorn to let his upper fleet pass down and he would leave the river. Gen. Van Dorn replied that he had nothing to do with Farragut's going up and he could not allow him to pass. The *Appeal* supposes that they wish to attack Mobile, or scare the English and French fleet below.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to the New York Herald.

AN IMPORTANT CONSULTATION.

Gen. Halleck occupied the morning in conference with the President and Secretary of War.—Major Generals Pope and Burnside were present a portion of the time. Several other Generals and high military functionaries were also in consultation with General Halleck to day. The publication of the official order proclaiming Gen. Halleck General-in-Chief is received with great satisfaction by all parties. The General immediately enters upon his duties.

DRAFTING NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

Great repugnance to the idea of draf ing continues to be entertained in official circles here.—The impression being that the President's call for 300,000 additional volunteers is already being responded to throughout the country with an alacrity that promises to secure the whole number in less time than was recently anticipated.

REPORTS FROM WARRENTON.

The reported intelligence from Warrenton, and the capture of two of our cavalry companies, gives rise to some speculation on the position of affairs in that region. General Pope leaves to-morrow or Friday for the field.

PREMIUM FOR RECRUITS.

According to an army order just published, for volunteer recruits for old regiments, there will be paid a premium of three dollars, and for those entering new regiments a premium of two dollars. The premium may be paid either to the person bringing the recruit or to the recruit, in person, in case he presents himself. The month's pay in advance to regular and volunteer recruits will be paid under such regulations as the Paymaster General may establish. During the continuance of the existing war twenty-five dollars of the one hundred bounty, previously authorized by act of Congress, will be paid to every recruit of the regular and volunteer forces.

The French corvette Gassendi, Capt. A. Gautier, is at New London awaiting the orders of the French Minister, who, with his family, is spending the season at the Pequot House. The minister, on leaving there, is expected to visit Newport, and, with his family and suite, will be conveyed there on the Gassendi. Viscount Treddards, First Secretary of the French Legation, with his family, are also sojourning at New London.

FROM VICKSBURG.

THE GREAT NAVAL BATTLES.

TERRIBLE STORM OF SHOT AND SHELL.

Special Despatch to the Chicago Times.

NAVAL BATTLES AT VICKSBURG.

MEMPHIS, July 19, via Cairo, July 20.—The steamer W. H. Brown has arrived from Vicksburg, bringing the first news from there regarding the late battle between the new Confederate gunboat Arkansas and the Federal fleet lying above Vicksburg.

This gunboat is well known as one of great strength and strong armament. See my description sent from here. She was built at Memphis at immense expense, and has been vaunted as invulnerable by the Confederates—not even second to the Merrimac in their estimation.

Intelligence was received through deserters and others that the Arkansas was making preparations to descend the Yazoo and attack the fleet. Her formidable proportions were sufficient to excite some apprehensions of the result, and the gunboats Carondelet and Tyler, the latter a wooden boat and the former partially iron-clad, were despatched up the river to look for her. The Tyler, being ahead, had gone some ten or twelve miles up the river when, in the grey of the morning, she discovered a strange craft coming down. Her identity was uncertain at first, but she was supposed to be a tug, of which there were one or two out foraging.

A shot was fired across her bows, which was immediately answered by a return shot, and the Tyler, ascertaining the real nature of her opponent, lost no time in heading down the river. She is nothing but an ordinary wooden boat, and of no service in an action.

The Arkansas kept on her way, and, a short distance below, met the Carondelet, which, being warned by the Tyler, was ready for action. The odds in strength were great, but her commander met his antagonist boldly, and opened with his bow guns the moment she came within range, and the Arkansas also opened with three bow guns, of which one is supposed to be a one hundred and twenty-eight pounder. The Carondelet ranged close alongside of her, and poured in broadsides after broadside, receiving in return heavy shots, against which her light armor was not proof. The balls from the Carondelet's guns rebounded from the iron side of the Arkansas, and fell into the water harmless, or crushed like egg-shells against the invulnerable armor. She could not be penetrated at any point.

This contest was too unequal to last long, and, the two boats coming in contact, the Carondelet's men boarded and sought to take the Arkansas by storm, when they got possession of her deck they could not get inside of the vessel, and they were forced to abandon the undertaking and return to their own boat. Her ports were all closed. The roof was invulnerable, and the Confederate crew were as safe from their fury as though a thousand miles away. In the meantime the boat had drifted near the shore and the Carondelet got aground. The Arkansas poured in a few more shots, and left her with seven men killed and a number wounded. Her armor was pierced in half a dozen places.

The Tyler had, by this time, got a good start, and was making for the protection of the fleet as fast as she could go. The Arkansas resumed her course, and was quite near her when the Tyler turned the point, a couple of miles above the fleet, discharging her stern guns, and receiving rapid shots from her pursuer.

Instantaneously all was confusion and preparation. The fleet unfortunately had no steam up, probably on account of the early hour, and none of them were in condition to manœuvre; but the guns were run out and everything put in readiness to receive her.

Gunboat No. 6, of Farragut's fleet, was highest up the river. She let fly her stern guns, and, when at close range, ran out an 11-inch gun and poured into her a storm of iron. One of these balls struck her in the stern and displaced the armor somewhat, but did not penetrate it. Solid shot seemed to flatten against her armor, while shells were scattered into thousands of fragments. Those who saw the fight say that a flash of fire denoted the spot where every ball struck, so terrible was the concussion and so strong the resistance.

She passed on undaunted, delivering her fire from six guns right and left, closing her portholes after each shot, and presenting a dead wall of eight inches of solid iron for our cannon to play upon.

She started and poured her broadside of thirteen guns into her; the Iroquois gave her a like salute; the Oneida belched forth her fire; the Benton, Louisville, Cincinnati, and the four Farragut gunboats all opened with terrific thunder and a hailstorm of iron; and still she kept calmly on her way, firing to the right and left, and receiving solid shot against her sides of every description, from thirty-two to one-hundred pounders, without seemingly deriving any injury.

She put holes through the Hartford, the Iroquois, the Benton and half of the gunboats.

The ram Lancaster started to make a run against her, and she put a shot through her blow-off pipe, which made an explosion of steam, and killed three men and wounded ten officers. She received ten-inch balls from the Hartford and Iroquois, which fairly made her careen with the force of the concussion, none of which went through her.

A port hole was at one period of the passage left unconsciously open, and a shot entered, which killed ten men and wounded a number. It was quickly closed, and she was again like a well of rock.

The Benton got aground and had to be pulled off. She then started in pursuit and followed her down to the point opposite Vicksburg, within reach of the batteries, firing her bow guns as rapidly as she could. The batteries opened on her and struck her four or five times. She had one man killed during the engagement.

She at last passed through our entire fleet of twenty-five or more boats, and landed safely and not seriously injured under the batteries of Vicksburg. She had some hard knocks, for her pumps were going and a stream of water ran from her deck, which was undoubtedly from leaking.

The results of the engagement were the loss of twenty-three men killed and twenty-five wounded. Many of our boats were struck, but none were seriously injured. The Tyler was badly riddled, and several of her men were killed.

During the entire engagement the Arkansas did not attempt to use her iron prow, which is solid, weighing ten or fifteen tons. It was put on her before she left here. This may have been from a lack of speed, as she is said to move quite slowly, not faster than our iron gunboats.

Having thus cornered their enemy, our fleet was not slow to take advantage of the position. She lay end on to the river, under cover of the upper batteries, and a plan was immediately formed which it was hoped would succeed in sinking her. This was to pass down that very night with Commodore Farragut's entire fleet, and pour into the contumacious boat successive broadsides as each vessel passed her.

The fleet of Commodore Davis accordingly took up a station at about dark, and opened on the batteries to draw their fire. They succeeded admirably, and at an unexpected moment the fleet of large vessels struck into the channel and descended the river. As each boat arrived opposite the Arkansas she slackened and poured her broadside into her. She answered as well as she could in such a storm of missiles, and put one or two balls into our vessels, but her main occupation was to be still and take it. Upwards of a hundred guns, some of them throwing 10-inch shots, poured their gallantly charged iron into her. Seven-inch steel pointed shot were fired into her, and I learn by Confederate sources that one of them went through her and killed two men. This, they maintain, is the only damage done her. The firing was tremendous. The Sumter also ran into her and tried to knock a hole in her hull, but seemingly might as well have run into a rock. The batteries of course joined in the engagement, and poured shot into our vessels as well as they could in the darkness.

The roar of guns was like an earthquake, and nothing more terrific ever was conceived than this grand artillery duel by night. It lasted an hour, and then our vessels passed below and took up their old anchorage.

In the morning messengers were despatched to see what damage the Arkansas had sustained. By going up the opposite bank of the river, she could be plainly seen. She was careened, as if to stop holes in her hull, and her steam pumps were at work. A barge lay alongside for the use of carpenters. It did not appear that she was in any danger of sinking.

Two battles, such as no boat in the world ever went through before, had failed to demolish her. I find, by the accounts of those who had good views of her, that this formidable craft has perpendicular sides of six or eight feet, in which the portholes are pierced. This is different from the common understanding of her model, which has been that her perpendicular sides were low. She presents six or eight feet in height of solid iron eight inches thick. She is a hundred and fifty feet long.

The broadsides from our own vessels did as much damage as the guns of the Arkansas. The Dickey got three shots, and the Lancaster several, and other transports were nearly riddled.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

A DESPERATE ENCOUNTER AT CLOSE QUARTERS—THE COMBATANTS AGROUND—THE ARKANSAS GETS OFF—THE LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES.

CAIRO, July 21, 12 M.—The Rowena, just arrived from Memphis, brings the following news:

On the report of Price having crossed the Mississippi reaching Helena, Gens. Curtis and Fitch, with a detachment of troops, went down on the steamer White Cloud to ascertain the truth of the report.

The despatch boat which arrived at Memphis on Saturday evening, from Vicksburg on the 16th, brings the following startling news:

THE COMING OF THE ARKANSAS REPORTED BY REFUGEES—A RECONNOISANCE.

The reported escape of the Confederate gunboat Arkansas turns out to be correct. The affair took place on the morning of the 15th instant. Two or three days before this time a reputed refugee came on board the Federal fleet, and reported that the officers of the Arkansas were planning an attempt to run her past the Federal fleet during the night. On the morning of Tuesday the gunboats Carondelet and Tyler, with the ram Lancaster, started up the Yazoo on a reconnoitering expedition. Between six and seven o'clock in the morning, about eight miles from the mouth of the river, they came suddenly upon the iron clad Confederate gunboat Arkansas, lying hidden under the bank, evidently waiting for evening, to make the attempt to get down the river. She had evidently discovered the approach of our boats, by the smoke, before they saw her, for as they rounded the bend of the river close to her she suddenly opened upon them with her batteries of twelve rifled 68-pounders. The two Union gunboats immediately returned her fire, and for a short time a fierce engagement ensued.

A DESPERATE FIGHT AT CLOSE QUARTERS.

Only one of the Union gunboats, the Carondelet, is iron clad, and she is a small one, having only two guns which she was able to bring to bear upon the foe. The Tyler is a wooden boat, and unfit to cope with so terrible an antagonist. Nevertheless, both these boats maintained a gallant fight at close quarters for a time, but, finding that the main channel of the river prevented successful manœuvring, they gradually returned to the mouth, the Arkansas following closely.

THE COMBATANTS AGROUND.

At the mouth of the river a small sand bar had been formed by the action of the meeting currents. Just as the Arkansas was passing this point the Carondelet made a desperate rush and closed with her, intending to board her. She had succeeded in throwing a grapple aboard her and getting out a plank, when the Arkansas opened a steampipe and the Carondelet replied in the same manner, and at the same moment. Both ran hard and fast upon the sand bar. The shock separated the two vessels, and in a few moments the Arkansas, being on the outside, succeeded in getting away. The Carondelet, however, remained fast for nearly an hour before she got off. Her crew gallantly maintained the fight, keeping up a fierce fire on the Arkansas until she had passed beyond the reach of her guns.

The Arkansas, as soon as she was clear from the bar, immediately started down the river. The Tyler, seeing this, passed her and preceded her down, maintaining a gallant running fight with her greatly superior adversary.

The distance from the mouth of the Yazoo river to the batteries at Vicksburg is about ten miles.

SCATTERED CONDITION OF OUR FLEET.

The fleet of Davis and Farragut, with a number of transports, ammunition boats, mortar boats, and wooden rams, were lying scattered over a space of nearly two miles of the river, just above the upper batteries. Unfortunately none of the iron gunboats had steam up, and the entire fleet was so scattered about, that few of them could fire at the Arkansas as she passed, without danger of hitting some of our own boats, until she came into close range. As she approached, such boats as could safely do so opened fire upon her, but her heavy iron-plating successfully resisted most of the shots.

INJURIES TO THE ARKANSAS.

Spectators describe the appearance of the shots as they struck to have been curious in the extreme. Every time a solid shot struck her plating a cloud of blue blaze seemed to rise from the spot, and a streak of brighter fire, caused by the friction, marked the entire course of the shot, until it passed over the vessel into the water. Some of the heaviest shot, however, passed entirely through the plating and penetrated the interior of the vessel. As the Arkansas approached Farragut's gunboat No. 6 she swerved a little from her course to reply to a shot from one of the other boats. At this instant a solid shot from the 11-inch columbiad of the No. 6 struck her on the larboard bow, near the forward port, passing through and under her plating, and ripping it off for a considerable distance. What further damage it did is not ascertained, but it is evident that the Arkansas is considerably injured, as at the time our informant left there she was lying careened over on the bank under the shelter of the batteries, and a large number of men could be seen at work on her.

What the loss of life on board the Arkansas was is not known, but undoubtedly it amounted to considerable, as several shots were seen to pass into her interior, and the hot water streams of the Carondelet, at the time she attempted to board, were thrown directly into her. The Carondelet received no damage from the steam of the Arkansas.

THE FEDERAL LOSSES.

The injuries to our fleet were much less than at first represented.

The Benton received a shot which struck near the edge of her after port, on the larboard side, instantly killing a man who was standing there, passing through the gunner's room and the wood room, and finally landing in the commander's bed. This was the only shot which did any particular damage, and this was from one of the shore batteries, and not from the Arkansas.

The Tyler is a wooden boat, which engaged the Arkansas longer than any other, nearly an hour and a half, and received the most damage. She had seven men killed outright and some nine or ten wounded. Among the killed were two well known river men—Charley Sebastian, pilot of the Tyler, one of the best known and most popular men on the river, and Mr. Davis, the engineer. David Hiner, another well-known pilot, had his arm taken off by a shot.

The ram Lancaster received a shot which penetrated the mud receiver underneath the boilers, causing an escape of hot water, by which six men were scalded, three of them fatally.

The entire Federal loss, so far as can be ascertained, will amount to about twelve killed and fifteen wounded, of whom five or six will probably die.

The Federal ram Queen of the West, which lay directly in the path of the Arkansas as she came down, was the recipient of a large portion of the fire. The bow of the Queen of the West was protected by bales of pressed hay, which proved decidedly a better protection than iron-plating. Not a single shot passed through them, but several large shells were picked out of the hay, in which they had buried themselves, and were extinguished before they burst.—*Chicago Journal.*

A SEVERE CRITICISM ON THE MILITARY STRATEGY OF GENERAL McCLELLAN.

From Wilkes' Spirit of the Times, July 19.

Nothing has taken place, during the past week, to mend the sad condition of affairs in the Peninsula. Nay, matters are fast getting worse, and the proud army which was to abate the pride of Richmond, is in imminent danger of being intercepted of supplies, and its power cut off.

The Young Napoleon, who, with a quarter of a million of men, permitted the National Capital to be menaced, and the Potomac to be blockaded for is now burrowing *current* force of sixty thousand, after a most disastrous retreat, and engaged,